

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) In a desktop microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a standard power inlet connected to said element, said standard power inlet rated to provide a first voltage, the improvement comprising:

a standard auxiliary power outlet connected to said standard power inlet; said standard auxiliary power outlet providing a second voltage, said second voltage capable of being adjustably identical to said first voltage, said standard auxiliary power outlet operatively arranged for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device associated with said desktop microscope stand.

2. (currently amended) The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said standard power inlet of said desktop microscope stand and said standard auxiliary power outlet are formed according to a common standard chosen from a plurality standards in use throughout the world.

3. (currently amended) The improvement according to claim 1, further comprising a cover installed to prevent access to said standard auxiliary power outlet, wherein said cover is adapted to be removable by a service technician but not by an end user.

4. (Original) The improvement according to claim 1, wherein said electrically powered element is an illumination source.

5. (currently amended) A desktop microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a power inlet rated to provide a voltage and connected to said element, said desktop microscope stand comprising:

an auxiliary power outlet connected to said power inlet for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device, said power inlet, said power cord and said power outlet rated to provide an identical voltage and adapted for accepting a standard International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) electrical connector.

6. (currently amended) The desktop microscope stand of Claim 5 wherein said power inlet and said power outlet are operatively arranged on an outer surface of said microscope stand.

7. (previously presented) In a desktop microscope stand of a type having an electrically powered element and a power inlet rated to provide a voltage and connected to said element, said desktop microscope stand comprising:

an auxiliary power outlet rated to provide a voltage identical to said power inlet and connected to said power inlet, said auxiliary power outlet operatively arranged for receiving a power cord of an electrically powered auxiliary device, said power inlet and said power outlet operatively arranged on an outer surface of said desktop microscope stand.

8. (previously presented) The desktop microscope stand of Claim 7 wherein said power inlet, said power cord and said power outlet are adapted for accepting a standard International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) electrical connector.

9. (previously presented): The desktop microscope stand of Claim 8 wherein said power inlet comprises a male plug portion for accepting a first female outlet of said power cord and said auxiliary power outlet comprises a second female outlet for accepting a male plug portion of a power cord of an auxiliary device therein.

10. (new) A microscope stand for a microscope comprising:

a power inlet;  
an auxiliary power outlet; and,  
an electrically powered element,

said power inlet connected to fuse protected dual switches such that said auxiliary power outlet and said electrically powered element are overload protected.

11. (new) The microscope stand of Claim 10 further comprising a printed circuit board connected to said fuse protected dual switches and said standard auxiliary power outlet and said electrically powered element are connected to said printed circuit board.

12. (new) The microscope stand of Claim 10 wherein said power inlet and said auxiliary power outlet are adapted for accepting a standard International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) electrical connector.

13. (new) The microscope stand of Claim 12 wherein said microscope stand is a desktop microscope stand.